

Monsanto

CONFIDENTIAL 100-4428

FROM
(NAME-LOCATION-PHONE) R. H. Sinise, W. G. Krummrich Plant

DATE September 24, 1980

cc.

SUBJECT PRESS CONFERENCE MINUTES
"DEAD CREEK"

REFERENCE

TO :

Present at meeting:

K. Mensing, EPA, Region 3 - Land Disposal
 J. Keltey, EPA, Springfield Chemist
 J. Renkes, IESDA, Manager
 Stan Parson, EPA Attorney
 (?) , Manager Public Health
 (?) (?)
 Channel 2, 4, 5 mini-cams
 Globe, Post
 15 total people 4 residents

Renkes started the meeting by reading statement that was distributed to people in attendance. This statement is attached. Keltey then went to a photo of the dead creek area. He discussed the sampling and results, also attached. EPA basically took:

- 13 samples in Dead Creek between Judith/Queeny
- 1 sample in Dead Creek north of Judith
- 2 samples of overflow pond (both water samples)
- 3 samples -- 2 wells on Edwards Place
 - 1 well on Walnut Drive directly next to the overflow pond (east)

These samples indicate PCB's and organics in high concentrations at the north end of Dead Creek next to Queeny Avenue. These concentrations diminish as one progresses south in Dead Creek. However, there are PCB's confirmed all the way through the ditch and south of Judith Lane. PCB's are in the pond and are in the well water sample from a greenhouse east of the pond. At the south end of the creek, high concentrations of metals and phosphorus exists, decreasing as one progresses north in Dead Creek.

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Phosphorus was especially referenced by Keltey. The phosphorus contamination of 123 included organo-phosphorus and elemental phosphorus. The elemental phosphorus was there in significant quantities to auto-ignite during a hot day. White phosphorus auto-ignites at 85°F and burns turning red. He saw the red residue and in his opinion, on a rainy day that would wash phosphorus to a low area followed by a hot (~90°F) day, the smoking ground occurs.

Private wells on Edwards Place Road did not show any traces of metals or organics in abnormal quantities. They did believe the contamination of the Walnut Street well was from a different source than Dead Creek.

In the opinion of the ESDA there is no immediate danger to residents. The fencing off of the area takes the appropriate action for Phase I of their program. The EPA will now assume Phase II and III of the program.

Vapor emissions were discussed as a result of questions. The EPA sampled for vapor organic emissions and did not find any. They indicated that hazardous vapor emissions did occur when the ground was disturbed.

The EPA can't determine what exactly killed the dog that rolled in the ditch. They would have to have an autopsy to determine the exact cause of death. Many cases, they have reports of animals killed by hazardous chemicals, when after an autopsy the dog actually died of natural causes. On further questions, he did say the phosphorus could have caused the burns and been ingested enough to result in death.

PCB's were discussed by a reporter as being an imminent hazard in itself. Keltey responded by stating PCB is not toxic. One would have to drink or ingest substantial quantities to have liver damage or gastro-intestinal problems. In addition, PCB is not a carcinogen only a suspected carcinogen. There were no carcinogenic chemicals in the dump. PCB does cause chlor-acne and may have aggravated the dog's skin burns.

More questions about vapor. He responded that exposure to vapor emissions being released by disturbed dirt would have to extend over a half day to cause skin problems and exposure problems.

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Phase II of the EPA program will start this afternoon. This phase will establish if there is a long term health problem associated with the Dead Creek area and an old landfill located just east of Dead Creek. Phase II will require samples of soil all the way to the Mississippi River in Dead Creek and north to the plants. It will involve vegetation samples along the bank and of the surrounding crops. Drilling rigs will drill several wells to establish a point of entry of the hazardous wastes to Dead Creek. The EPA does not believe the old landfill east of Dead Creek has caused the problem in Dead Creek. It may have contributed to the contamination of the Walnut Street well. In addition, contacts will be made with the local industries to review dumping records, old photos, and dumping procedures. The EPA will use metal detectors and soil borings in their investigation of this old alleged landfill. This investigation of the alleged dump will begin in several weeks.

Several additional questions concerning property values and firemen exposure while putting out the fires in Dead Creek were aired. Property values will go down like Love Canal. The Board of Health is planning a health study of the firemen to determine if they have sustained health damage.

Several questions on who will pay. The lawyers responded by saying whoever illegally dumped will pay for Phase III disposal. If additional information about past practices shows illegal dumping a violation of nuisance standards, legal proceedings against them will be pursued. This identification must be completed prior to Phase III since funds are currently not available for the Dead Creek area.

ESDA is going to work with fire department for instructions in fighting phosphorus fires.

These minutes and notes are not inclusive but summarize the points of interest to Monsanto.

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Monsanto

FROM

(NAME-LOCATION-PHONE)

John J. Spano -- G4NH -- 8654

DATE : September 24, 1980

SUBJECT : EPA HEARING INTO "DEAD CREEK"

REFERENCE :

TO : E. N. Brasfield

cc. D. R. Bishop
S. G. Collins
C. P. Cunningham
H. W. Curtis
~~J. W. Mollo~~
J. T. Nolan
W. B. Papageorge
P. S. Park
M. C. Throdahl

Enclosed is the material passed out to the news media at the EPA's hearing into "Dead Creek" at Cahokia. Here are some additional notes to my brief report earlier today:

John Rankas of the Illinois EPA chaired the press conference, flanked by representatives of the state public health, attorney general's, emergency services and disaster offices, plus Cahokia city officials.

Samples -- 14 samples were taken north and south of Queeny Avenue.

Phosphorus -- Jim Kalty, EPA chemist, said analyses indicated a high level of phosphorus (12 percent). He added, however, that there was only a small amount of elemental phosphorus, most of the sample being organophosphorus which is not self-combustible.

PCBs -- Analysis showed concentrations as high as 17,000 PPM. Kalty, responding to questions from press, said PCBs are relatively non-toxic. "They are not a known carcinogen; they are a suspected carcinogen." He said a person would have to be exposed to high concentrations over a considerable period to be harmed.

Hazards -- Kalty reiterated repeatedly after close questioning that there is no immediate danger, the area has been sealed off. The danger would be if someone got into the fenced-in area illegally and stirred up the earth.

Kalty said: "No one can give final answer on long-term environmental situation but the imminent "public safety issue is over. We have environmental concerns, but the fire is out."

Worker Exposure -- A state public health official was asked about danger to employees of plants in the area and he responded: "We have no specific instances of any workers being exposed."

ps
Attachment (2)

John J. Spano

CER 008098